



BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1961.

To: The Chairman & Members of the
Blackrod Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1961.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres) at 31.12.61	2392.4
Population - Census 1961	3,600
Registrar General's estimate of home pop. mid 1961	3,660
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1961 according to Rate Books	1,287
Rateable Value £31,822. Sum represented by a penny rate £132.		

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population at mid 1961 3,660

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	77	45	32
	Illegitimate	1		1

Live birth-rate per 1,000 est. pop. - Crude Rate 21.3
Adjusted

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
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<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate	1	1
	Illegitimate	-	

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births 12.7

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ... Nil
 Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 12.8
 Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . 12.8
 Perinatal mortality rate 1,000 total births 25.3

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Legitimate ...	1	1	-
	Illegitimate ..	-		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.	Legitimate ...	1	1	-
	Illegitimate ..	-		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age.	Legitimate ...	1	1	-
	Illegitimate ..	-		
Deaths (All Forms)		47	26	21

Causes of death during 1961

	Total	Males	Females
Malignant Neoplasm -- Lung	2	2	
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	2	2
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of N ervous System	5	1	4
Coronary Disease - angina	7	6	1
Other Heart disease	16	8	8
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
Influenza	1	1	-
Bronchitis	4	2	2
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	-
Suicide	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	47	26	21

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

Infectious Disease

138 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, 127 of which were Measles.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND AGE GROUPS.

(Age period - years)

Disease	Total cases all ages	0--	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--	10--	15--	25 and over	45 and over	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4				2				2			-
Whooping Cough	2						1		1			-
Measles	127	2	10	24	22	21	48					-
Pneumonia	1									1		-
Resp. T.B.	2									1		-
Rheumatic Fever									†	1		-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948)

No application received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

There is a practising Mid-Wife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

Hospital Accommodation.

For Infectious Diseases - by arrangement with the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

Immunisation.

The Clinic at the Methodist School, Blackrod, is open every Saturday morning. The doctor is in attendance on alternate Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over if necessary. Children of school age are also immunised at the school.

Maternity Services.

48 Ante Natal Clinics were held in the course of the year at the Clinic in New Street, and 795 attendances were recorded.

Public Health Staff.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Health Inspector who is also Surveyor. A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

General Health.

The general health of Blackrod throughout 1961 followed the usual pattern of good health marred by Seasonal respiratory infections. January saw the Influenza and this recurred at the end of the year - in December. Apart from the Measles in April and May there was little infectious illness, the Village being free from all infections of a serious nature.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for the district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

Mortuary.

The Mortuary, situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply:- The Urban District have their own water supply which consists of a Catchment Area of some 170 acres in extent from which surface water and water from land springs is obtained and stored in a 20 million gallon impounding reservoir. The Catchment Area is mainly moorland in character and is situated in the Horwich Urban District. The Undertaking is adequate for the needs of the district at the present time and bulk supplies are taken by the Adlington Urban District and the Makerfield Water Board. An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year and the reservoir has been full and overflowing over the greater part of the year.

15 samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. 9 of these samples were taken from taps on the distribution system, 8 of which were satisfactory and 1 sample indicating a low bacterial count. 3 samples were taken from the feeder streams and each sample indicated coliform organisms in the sample. 3 samples were also taken from a shallow well from a private supply, supplying the only farm cottage without a piped water supply in the District, 2 of which were found to be unsatisfactory and 1 sample satisfactory.

All water as it enters the distribution mains is first chlorinated. Chlorine Gas being used; the plant used for treatment is automatic in its operation and the dosage being regulated in relation to flow.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbago solvent action on lead.

The total number of houses with a piped supply is:

(a) Direct to Houses	1268
(b) Stand Pipes	Nil
(c) From Private Wells.	1

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

Treatment of sewage is carried out at two main outfalls, Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane, this consisting of primary settlement in retention tanks and final treatment by passing the effluent over the land on the broad irrigation system. A scheme for the improvement and reorganisation of the sewers and for the treatment of the sewage at the Horwich U.D.C.'s plant has been submitted to the Rivers Boards concerned, who have accepted the scheme in principle subject to certain details of overflow and the number of times dry weather flow to receive full treatment. The Lancashire County Council have also approved the scheme for grant purposes and it is expected that the scheme will be ready very shortly for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for their approval.

Food Inspections.

The following types of food premises are in use in the district and these are visited at frequent intervals:-

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	22
Green Grocers and Fruiterers.....	2
Fish Mongers and those selling Poultry and Game.....	Nil
Meat Shops (Butchers and Purveyors of cooked and preserved meats).....	2
Bakers and Confectioners.....	1
Fried Fish Shops.....	2
Shops selling sugar, confectionery, minerals, ice-cream.....	2
Licensed Premises, Clubs and Canteens.....	15

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits.</u>
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	10
Bakers (Manufacturers of Meat Pies)	Nil	Nil

Meat Inspection.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the district, all carcass meat being slaughtered outside the district. Visits are made frequently to the Butcher's Shops to examine the meat offered for sale.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Inspections have been made to premises to which the regulations apply and instructions given as required to persons employed in the shops,

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

34 samples of milk have been taken from producer and producer retailers and submitted for analysis. All samples were reported free from Tubercl Bacilli and only one sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Sanitary Inspections during the year.

No. of Premises visited	132
Defects or nuisances discovered	45
Notices served (Informal)	16
(Statutory)	31
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Scavenging of Streets.

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I and II roads and undertake the scavenging of these roads. Class III and District Roads are maintained by the District Council and these are scavenged at frequent intervals and a mechanical sweeper is engaged to sweep these roads at weekly intervals.

Shops and Offices.

31 shops have been visited and 2 visits made to offices in connection with the Shops Act and Public Health Act provisions.

Public Cleansing.

1268 moveable galvanised dust-bins were in use at the end of the year. Dust bins for domestic premises are supplied by the Council and the cost is chargeable as a rate borne service.

Refuse is collected and disposed of by direct labour. One 8 cu. yd. side loading refuse collecting vehicle being used for this purpose, a motor driver and three labourer are regularly employed on this work and a weekly collection is maintained over the year. The refuse is being disposed of at two points, one at Scot Lane which is a disused colliery and tipping is being carried out to fill one of the surface reservoirs and also refuse is being tipped in the ~~disuse~~ cutting shafts. In Chorley Road a disused mineral railway cutting is being filled and this will, when filled, restore the land to agricultural use. At the present time all refuse is tipped, there being no separation of waste, paper, metals, etc. No special arrangements are made for the collection or disposal from trade premises other than shops, the industrial concerns have their own arrangements for dealing with their trade waste. The few remaining pail closets are collected with the house refuse and disposed of by admixture with the refuse.

Offensive Trades.

No premises are registered in the district in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried on.

Schools.

There are three junior and one secondary schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are adequate in all the schools.

Bakehouses.

There are no bakehouses in use at the present time.

Factories and Workshops.

No. in District	15	Boot & Shoe Repairer	1
Carpet Manufacturers	1	Building Sites	4
Rayon Processing	1	Metal Brokers	1
Textile Warehouse.	1	Processing Peat Moss	1
Joiner	1	Light Engineering	2
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2	No. of Visits.	18

Rodent Control.

77 Premises have been visited, 2 major infestations and 3 minor infestations of rats have been found on agricultural premises and treatment carried out. Five minor infestations of mice have also been treated successfully. All sewers and disposal works have also been treated at six monthly intervals. The Council's refuse tips are also treated at regular intervals. Treatment is carried out by a trained operator on the Council's staff.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Two public sanitary conveniences are provided in the district and these are sited at two of the main road junctions. The conveniences provide a 2 stall urinal and 1 water closet for men and 1 water closet for women. Also incorporated in the building is a waiting room for use of the public whilst waiting for public transport.

Closet Accommodation.

Frivy Middens	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1455
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Dins.	1268
No. of Houses on Water Carriage System	1258

Housing.

The District Council have completed and occupied 48 dwellings and these dwellings have been used to rehouse families living in unfit premises. 44 private dwellings have also been completed and occupied.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton,
Bolton.

15th June, 1962.

